

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure, comprising:

immersing an end surface of a honeycomb carrier in a slurry containing a ceramic powder in a reservoir ~~tank~~; tank, the reservoir tank including a slide member that forms a bottom of the reservoir tank and a scraper that is attached to the slide member;

pressing the slurry into part of cells of the honeycomb carrier while pressing the end surface of the honeycomb carrier against a bottom surface of the reservoir tank;

~~separating from the reservoir tank, sliding the slide member along the end surface of the honeycomb carrier, while keeping the slide member in contact with the end surface of the honeycomb carrier to separate the bottom of the reservoir tank from the~~
honeycomb carrier with the slurry pressed into said part of the cells; and

~~removing the slurry attached to the end surface of the honeycomb carrier.~~

scraping the end surface of the honeycomb using the scraper, while the slide member is sliding away from the honeycomb carrier to remove the slurry attached to the end surface of the honeycomb carrier.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the slurry in the cells is dried by blowing air on, or applying heat to, the end surface of the honeycomb carrier separated from the reservoir tank

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the slurry ~~may be~~ is removed from the end surface of the

honeycomb carrier before drying the slurry by blowing air on, or applying heat to, the end surface of the honeycomb carrier. ~~carrier separated from an inside of the reservoir tank.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a honeycomb structure, comprising:

immersing an end surface of a honeycomb carrier in a slurry containing a ceramic powder in a reservoir ~~tank;~~ tank, the reservoir tank including a slide member that forms a bottom of the reservoir tank and a scraper that is attached to the slide member,

pressing the slurry into part of cells of the honeycomb carrier while pressing the end surface of the honeycomb carrier against a bottom surface of the reservoir tank;

~~separating, from the reservoir tank,~~ sliding the slide member along the end surface of the honeycomb carrier, while keeping the slide member in contact with the end surface of the honeycomb carrier, to separate the bottom of the reservoir tank from the
honeycomb carrier with the slurry pressed into said part of the cells; ~~and~~

scrapping the end surface of the honeycomb using the scraper, while the slide member is sliding away from the honeycomb carrier, to remove the slurry attached to the end surface of the honeycomb carrier; and

drying the slurry in the cells by blowing air on, or applying heat to, the end surface of the honeycomb carrier separated from the reservoir tank.